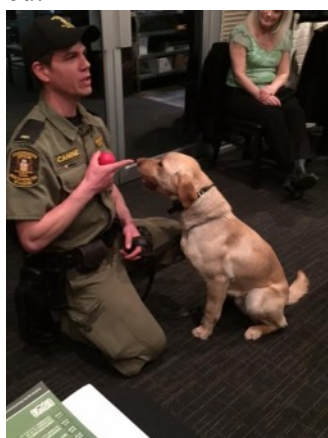


LARC ANNUAL DINNER A SUCCESS!

Conservation Officer Andrew Heerschap and his partner Rex were this years guests at our annual dinner meeting at Chicago Joe's. I am sure that everyone was amazed as I was at the dog's ability to detect contraband items (including gun powder on a members jacket) not to mention the obvious close relationship between dog and handler. Many thanks to Andrew and Rex for coming to our meeting and letting us know what you do.



and the winners were...



We would also like to thank those who contributed door prizes. Your support of the LARC is greatly appreciated.



LARC SENATE

Robert Hansen VE3RVA
 Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
 Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD
 Terry Stewardson VA3LU
 Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President: Randy Gottfred VA3OJ
 Vice-President: Bob Hansen VE3RVA
 Treasurer: Bill Unger VE3XT
 Secretary: Karl Hamilton VE3RRP
 Board Member: Mike Skillen VE3EDX
 Board Member: Cory Vickruck VE3ZCV
 Board Member: Brad Harris VE3MXJ
 Board Member: Axel Rehfuhs VE3OPF

ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. Our meetings are the second Thursday of the month at room 191 McIntyre Building, Confederation College, 7:30 PM. Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to hqnewsletter@gmail.com

Nets in the Thunder Bay Area

Last Monday of every Month - ARES net on VE3YQT - 7 pm (you do not have to be an ARES member to check in)

Cook County ARES Response Team (CARRT) net at 0100Z (8 pm) on the BWARC repeater, Grand Portage repeater - 146.655 with CTCSS

Every Day The NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO ARES NET , every evening at 8:15PM (local) on 80m 3.750Mhz (note the time does not change with daylight savings time.)

Any questions on these or other nets please feel free to contact me at my e-mail: ve3mxj@rac.ca

LARC Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ 767-0628

ARES District Emergency Coordinator

vacant

CANWARN

VA3JMS John 767-3631
 VE3MXJ Brad 767-0628

Public Service Events

VA3JMS John 767-3631

Accredited Examiners

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
flesnick@tbaytel.net
 VE3VAI Lori Bedford 622 – 6386
ve3vai@tbaytel.net

LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS

VE3YQT(Mount Baldy)147.060 (-600) Phone Patch

VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2

442.075 (+5 MHz)**pl 100**
 144.390 APRS

VE3UPP Upsala 145.470 (-600)

April 2017 Treasurers Report

Balance April 1, 2017	<u>\$885.76</u>
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Income

Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>
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Expenses

April 6, UPS Store Postal Box Rental	\$191.48
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Total Expenses	<u>\$191.48</u>
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Balance April 30, 2017	<u>\$694.28</u>
------------------------	-----------------

<u>Trailer Account</u>		
	Previous Balance	\$138.76
<u>Income</u>		
Interest		\$0.01
Total		\$138.77
<u>Expenses</u>		
Total Expenses:		\$0.00
	Balance in Trailer Account	\$138.77

Term Account

April 01 Balance	\$2,057.40
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April 17, Interest	\$0.25
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April 30, Balance	\$2,057.65
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Bill Unger CG3XT
Treasurer



May

2017

**Minutes for the
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club
Date: April 13, 2017**

President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.

Guest Speaker:

Andy Heerschap and MNR K-9 unit.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Unger VE3XT

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by Chris Chadwick VA3TBA. Passed Unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moves to accept the previous meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Seconded by John Sacek VA3JMS. Passed.

Old Business:

Public Service (John Sacek VA3JMS public events coordinator)

Past Events:

-

Upcoming Events

10 Mile Road Race Monday May 22nd. Norm Bell VE3XRC Coordinator

Conquer the Dog Saturday August 19th

Xterra Saturday August 26th

CANWARN John Sacek VA3JMS

Training Day: Monday June 12, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, 100 Conservation Road, 7 PM, Thunder Bay

ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ Thunder Bay EC

No news

Repeater News

**Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,
Terry Stewardson VA3LU**
no news

Club Trailer:

Bob Hansen VE3RVA
no news

YouTube Channel
Cory Vickruck VE3ZCV
no news

New Business

no new business

50/50 Draw: VE3XRC

Adjournment moved by: Norm Bell VE3XRC

**Next Executive Meeting: May 4,
2017, 7:30 PM, RM 213**

**Next LARC Meeting: May 11,
2017, 7:30 PM, RM 214**



I regret to report that Fred Lesnick VE3FAL has informed me that Dwayne Randle VE3DZR became a silent key on the night of May 5. Dwayne was well known on HF and will be missed by the local ham community..

More Info on YQT

Randy, Lindo and myself made the trip up to Mt. Baldy today and what we found is not good news about the repeater. The coax at the antenna (at 350 feet) has been pulled apart and there is no connection between antenna and heliax. We can't tell for sure if the cable is usable or not until we get a tower climber to go up and check the cable all the way up to the antenna. At the very least if cable is OK we still are going to have the cable remounted and fasten properly with the right straps. It looks like it was strapped with tie wraps all the way to the antenna. Of course over the last 25 years they have all broken and cable was just hanging and the weight of the cable and probably the extra weight of the ice has done it in.

Will update once we have more info.

Terry VA3LU

Hello

This letter has been in the back of my mind for a while now and due to recent events in the city, needed to be put to print. It is time to ask for volunteers to help out in an event that is important to many of the hams that live in Thunder Bay. It doesn't require a lot of your time and you don't need a lot of high tech radios or high level proficiency to participate. If this sounds like something that you might be interested in, please read on.

As many of you are now aware of, VE3YQT is running a little less than the fairly reliable repeater that we have come to know and love. During the ice storm at the end of April, ice build up at the tower site was extensive. On Saturday, YQT went quiet. It was not totally dead but needed extra ordinary effort to activate and even more to hear it repeat. Although this is not the ideal situation for the repeater, it did give some insight into what may have happened. The ice and snow of the storm made it difficult to access the site but personnel from CKPR made the trek to the site and found that some of the buildings had been hit with substantial ice chunks that have caused some damage. I have not received any direct information on the condition of the antenna, cable or repeater. As far as I can tell, the repeater is ok but there may be a problem with the feed line or antenna. The only way to find this out is by travelling to the site and have a look. So, hopefully, on Sunday, we will be able to access the site and assess the situation so we can come up with a solution to the problem.

Now, you may have been wondering about the volunteer part that I was mentioning a little earlier. I am not looking for anyone to trek up the hill or form a work party. What I am looking for are volunteers to join the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club. This may be a strange way of approaching this but I have to try.

As many of you know, Lakehead Amateur Radio Club has been around for many years. The membership has risen and fallen but we are still here serving our community. The LARC has been sponsoring a number of repeaters in the area on vhf and uhf. Through the support of the membership dues, we have purchased and maintained the equipment at the sites and have put in countless hours and personal financial support to keep the repeaters running for your enjoyment and to support the amateur community. This ice storm shows that we can be vulnerable. It shows that even though we were hit with a storm that can cripple a city, we survived and were still able to be there if needed. We weathered the storm but fell victim to the warmer weather in the days that followed and melted the ice that has crippled the repeater for now.

We all take for granted that the repeater will never need to be repaired but will always be there when we turn our radios on and grab that mike. You might only use the repeater a few times a month. You might use it every day. You might need it to tell a loved one that the roads are slippery and it is taking you a bit longer to get home so they don't have to worry that you are in the ditch somewhere. It may be a traveller that is looking for directions or visiting from out of town that just wants to share some radio time with someone that has similar interests. It may seem I am rambling a bit here but since the repeater has been down, these are my personal accounts of things that have happened since the repeater went silent.

73

Randy VA3OJ
LARC President

Emergency Preparedness Week is underway

May 7 to 13: Plan. Prepare. Be Aware.

<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/ep-wk/index-en.aspx>

Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) is an annual event that takes place each year during the first full week of May. This national event is coordinated by Public Safety Canada, in close collaboration with the provinces and territories and partners.

This year, the theme is "Plan. Prepare. Be Aware." It is meant to help Canadians take action to protect themselves and their families during emergencies.

Through the Get Prepared campaign, Canadians have learned to know the risks, make a plan, and get an emergency kit. This year's theme highlights the importance of having these measures in place but specifically emphasizes the need to keep up to date on current conditions, like the weather, that might impact you.

Working together with community leaders, first responders, non-government organizations and all levels of government, we are building a more resilient and safer Canada.

Emergency Preparedness Week Toolkit

<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/ep-wk/tlkt-en.aspx>

Alert Ready

<https://www.theweathernetwork.com/alert-ready>

For more information, please contact info@GetPrepared.ca or call 1-800-830-3118.

For more information regarding what's happening across the country, please visit:

<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/ep-wk/index-en.aspx>

Alan Griffin
RAC MarCom Director

Emergency Communications Driving Increase in Amateur Radio Operators

submitted by Brad Harris VE3MXJ - LARC EC

More Americans than ever have been licensed by the Federal Communications Commission as amateur radio operators, and those in the know say that emergency communications is driving their passion to be “hams.”

“There has been a tremendous amount of interest in emergency preparedness since 9/11 and Katrina, and this is true for the amateur radio community as well,” said Mike Corey, the emergency preparedness manager for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). “Emergency communications is a gateway into amateur radio, and many join our ranks through an interest in being better prepared themselves and as a way to serve their community.”

“This is the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses has exceeded 30,000,” said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator Manager Maria Somma last year. She said 32,552 were granted in 2016, 32,077 in 2015, and 33,241 in 2014. Total active FCC-issued ham radio licenses hit an all-time high of 743,003 in November 2016.

The public’s growing interest in amateur radio for emergency communications is a legacy of 9/11, when Americans saw their cellular telephone networks become overwhelmed by excess traffic and system outages. When regular phone service fails, amateur radio operators fill the communications gap with their independent transceivers and battery power backups.

“I think we have experienced an uptick in new licenses due to the emergency capabilities of ham radio,” said Jack Ciaccia, ARRL Colorado section manager. “Interest really peaks after a large-scale event where ham radio has been utilized.”

Amateur radio operators played a substantial role in restoring vital communications links in the wake of 9/11, hurricanes, tornadoes and other major disasters that have affected the United States. They assist in directing first responders to victims, providing real-time situational updates from the disaster scene to emergency management agencies, and offering victims a way to contact their families and friends when normal communications channels have failed.

“Generally, amateur radio operators assist other organizations and agencies by adding communications capacity when normal means of communications are down or overloaded,” Corey said. “Amateurs work

with local emergency management, first responders, hospitals, National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center and VOADs [Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters] and the Red Cross and Salvation Army. Many also use amateur radio as part of their own family communications plan and use the skills they learn as amateurs to assist neighbors during emergencies and disasters.”

Walt Palmer is a licensed ham radio operator, and also director of broadcast operations, engineering and programming at NewsRadio WGMD 92.7 FM in Rehoboth Beach, Del. “Through an arrangement with our local EOC, I have a 2-meter ham radio set and antenna at my desk, which can be patched into our FM transmitter during emergencies,” he said. “If regular communications fail, the EOC can put the mayor or one of their officials on the 2-meter band, and I can rebroadcast it via our FM channel to our entire coverage area.”

Emergency managers have taken note the usefulness of amateur radio operators during manmade and natural disasters — and many have ongoing relationships with their local ham communities. This includes assigning amateur radio operators specific roles within each agency’s emergency response plan, and even setting space aside for hams in their EOCs.

For many years, ARRL has created special Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) units to assist during times of crisis. Each ARES unit “consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with their local ARES leadership for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes,” according to the ARRL website. ARES members are trained to work with local emergency management; to have their own food, sleeping equipment and other supplies to survive during emergency situations away from home; and to have pre-planned for their families’ well-being during the ARES team member’s absence.

“In most cases, the amateur radio response to an emergency or disaster is handled by local ARES teams,” said Corey. “However, in the case of large-scale disasters such as a large hurricane or earthquake, ARRL headquarters will assist local and state ARES teams with equipment, media support, regulatory guidance and coordination with national partners.”

“Most of our ARES teams around the country partner with local and state emergency management,” he added. “In most cases this relationship also allows for closer work with other local response groups such as public safety, hospitals and local VOADs.”

This is certainly the case in Colorado. In 2016, the state Legislature officially designated qualified hams as members of Colorado's new Auxiliary Emergency Communications Unit, under the authority of the state's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in the Department of Public Safety.

As a result of this new law, Colorado ARES teams are now part of their state's emergency management team, with their own roles with their state's emergency management plans and facilities.

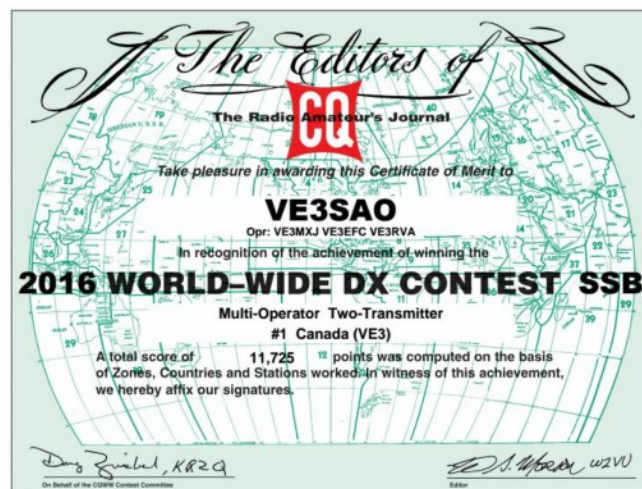
"In many EOCs, including the Colorado EOC, ARES has its own space with its own permanently installed radio gear and antenna installations," Ciaccia said. "In Boulder, they also maintain a cache of portable equipment that can be deployed as soon as manpower is available. This way, they never have to worry about obtaining anyone's personal gear for use in an emergency."

It is worth noting that hams also aid emergency managers in less dire situations. For instance, "throughout the United States, amateurs assist the National Weather Service's SKYWARN program in providing ground truth reports during severe weather events," Corey said. All told, the growing number of amateur radio operators in the U.S. are self-funding, fully equipped communicators, many of whom want to support local emergency managers and first responders any way they can.

"We have worked extremely hard over the years to become useful and professional with our assistance to our community OEMs and EOCs," Ciaccia said. "The major capability that hams bring to emergency management is our varied modes and frequencies: We can usually make a communications path when others do not exist. Because of those two important and valuable commodities that are usually not available to public service entities, we are an important asset to local authorities in times of need."



Well Done!



This Month's Internet Picks by Jan VA3JRS

<http://www.ladailypost.com/content/world-futures-information-communication-both-near-and-long-distances>

http://www.lakegenevanews.net/news/keeping-an-eye-on-the-sky/article_9dbbf6e0-2f43-11e7-9c2b-d303213e71be.html

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/google-warns-of-phishing-scam-that-impersonates-google-docs-1.3397166>

<http://fairborndailyherald.com/opinion/16941/more-info-about-hams>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q98vCSNa6d4>

<http://www.eham.net/articles/39062>

<http://www.gmarc.org/wp/>

<https://news.virginia.edu/content/when-wires-cant-do-job-uva-radio-club-ready-stand-breach>

May 2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Beltane	2	3	4	5	6	7 Emerg Preparedness Week starts
8	9	10	11 LARC Meeting at Con College	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Victoria Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				